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Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/265 and 55/84***

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Summary

After the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/266, expressed support for the decision by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an anti-discrimination unit to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination. In recognition of the close relationship between the activities to be undertaken to further implement the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the mandate of the anti-discrimination unit, the High Commissioner has assigned responsibility for the implementation of the Programme of Action to this unit.

The present report contains detailed information on activities undertaken or planned by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance concerning both the implementation of the Programme of Action as well as to facilitate the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. It also indicates the additional personnel resources from the regular budget that the General Assembly has authorized to assist the anti-discrimination unit in carrying out its mandate, as well as activities that will be undertaken if sufficient voluntary contributions are made available. In addition, activities that are being undertaken or planned to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies are described.

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 56/265 of 27 March 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to include in his report further appropriate concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary sources.

2. In paragraph 24 of part I of its resolution 55/84 of 4 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to combat racism and racial discrimination, containing an analysis of information received on such activities.

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to those resolutions.

II. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

4. The Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination ends in 2003. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/26, recommended that the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused towards the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Afri a, from 31 August to 8 September 2001. In conformity with that resolution, the High Commissioner for Human Rights reorganized the activities of the Third Decade, focusing them towards the preparations for the Conference and the Conference itself. In this regard, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/56/481). For further information on the outcome of the Conference, see the report of the Conference (A/CONF.189/12).

5. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade falls within the responsibility of the anti-discrimination unit established within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Several activities mentioned in the Programme of Action under the Third Decade (General Assembly resolution 49/146, annex) still need to be undertaken. To this end, the anti-discrimination unit will organize one of the seminars listed in the Programme of Action in 2002, provided sufficient funds are available from voluntary contributions. The seminar proposed for 2002 will be "for educational and training experts, including non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate organizations, aimed at the development of educational materials and training courses for teachers and other opinion leaders on eliminating prejudice and fostering tolerance" (see resolution 49/146, annex, paragraph 7 (k)). The Office of the High Commissioner has included the convening of such a seminar in the budget of its Annual Appeal 2002.

6. Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be viewed in the light of implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/265, recognized that the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference addressed a wide range of practical issues which could complement the Programme of Action for the Third Decade. Activities in follow-up to the World Conference against Racism as undertaken by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies are referred to below.

III. Activities by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to combat racism and racial discrimination

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/84, the present report makes reference to the activities undertaken to combat racism and racial discrimination

by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies since the World Conference. It supplements the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/21).

A. Follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Anti-discrimination Unit

8. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 56/266, the General Assembly supported the decision by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an anti-discrimination unit to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination. An anti-discrimination unit has been established within the Office of the High Commissioner to facilitate implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In March 2002, the General Assembly decided that four positions are to be funded from the regular budget, namely one P-5, two P-3 and one General Service. As the anti-discrimination unit also has responsibility for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, these are additional personnel resources that can be drawn upon.

9. The anti-discrimination unit will undertake the following activities, which would assist in the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade:

(a) Service meetings of the group of five independent eminent experts to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(b) Organize two regional expert seminars in 2002, one in Latin America and the Caribbean and one in Africa, to discuss the modalities of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(c) Compile and prepare an annual progress report on the action taken by States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action agreed to in Durban. The first report was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/21). An updated report on implementation will also be submitted to the General Assembly;

(d) Produce and disseminate an annual publication on the progress achieved in implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in a user-friendly format as a public information document, provided sufficient funds are available from voluntary contributions. This publication will be based on the reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

(e) Convert the home page and links for related documentation for the World Conference (www.un.org/WCAR) into a home page for follow-up to the Conference. It will highlight meetings and initiatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and be a major vehicle of communication for the implementation drive. In this regard, it is to be noted that a dedicated web page for indigenous peoples was launched on 10 December 2001 on the occasion of Human Rights Day;

(f) Explore the possibility of establishing and maintaining a database on, inter alia, best practices and national legislation to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) Maintain and strengthen links developed in 2000 and 2001 during the preparation for the Conference with non-governmental organizations, including youth groups, and promote their active involvement in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(h) Continue and strengthen regular liaison with parliamentarians, religious leaders, business and trade unions with a view to promoting their active involvement in the follow-up;

(i) Continue and strengthen active liaison with United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental bodies on follow-up to the Conference, to organize regular consultations with them and develop and implement joint activities with them.

The implementation of some of the above-listed activities will depend on the availability of sufficient voluntary contributions. To this end, the Office of the High Commissioner has requested appropriate funding in its Annual Appeal 2002.

10. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) with a panel discussion entitled "Young People against Racism: the Road from Durban". Governmental delegates and NGO representatives attending the session of the Commission on Human Rights participated in the event. The panel also attracted great interest from local high school students and students from the University of Geneva. A photographic display arranged by young people from the NGO Minorities of Europe gave those who attended an idea of what youth participation was like in Durban. The seven panellists (including five young people from Nicaragua, Australia, Burundi and Guyana) succeeded in highlighting the positive contribution that young people can make to the anti-racism movement. A number of participants expressed appreciation and support for the work of young people in promoting diversity.

Technical cooperation

11. Through its technical cooperation programme, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is engaged in assisting States in building and strengthening national capacities (structures, institutions, processes), which have a direct impact on the observance of human rights, including combating racial discrimination. Among the various components of the Office's technical cooperation programme, the activities described below, which are of significance in the battle against racism and in the follow-up to the World Conference, have been undertaken.

12. *National plans of action.* The Office is providing assistance in the elaboration, development and implementation of national plans of action for human rights generally and also for human rights education. A handbook on how to develop such plans is in the process of being finalized and two compilations on existing national human rights plans as well as national human rights education plans are available.

13. *National institutions.* The Office is actively engaged with national institutions in the follow-up to the Conference. The Office and the Danish Centre for Human Rights have established a web site (www.nhri.net) on national institutions. This web site includes a section on racism and discrimination issues dealt with by national institutions.

14. At the Sixth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, which was held in Copenhagen and Lund, Sweden, from 10 to 13 April 2002, national institutions adopted the Copenhagen Declaration, which reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the consensus statement of national institutions submitted to the World Conference. The Copenhagen Declaration also gives an overview on information that was shared among national institutions and best practices that they examined during the conference in the areas of remedies, monitoring, advocacy and education.

15. In addition, the following regional and national meetings have been held to discuss how to implement in practical ways what was agreed upon in Durban:

(a) The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (Colombo, 24-27 September 2001);

(b) A Danish Centre for Human Rights initiative with Latin American human rights institutions (Copenhagen, 23-25 September 2001), where various issues were discussed, including how to implement the Durban Programme of Action at the national level;

(c) The Second Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean National Institutions (Athens, 1-3 November 2001), whereby national institutions reviewed issues concerning immigration and racism;

(d) The First General Assembly of the Network of National Institutions of the Americas for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights that focused on Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent rights in the Caribbean (Jamaica, March 2002);

(e) The Fourth Regional Meeting of African National Human Rights Institutions, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, in August 2002;

(f) Racism, the media and human rights education — a meeting of Asia-Pacific National

Human Rights Institutions in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (dates to be determined);

(g) The Second European Meeting of National Human Rights Institutions, with a focus on refugees and asylum seekers, minorities; and the prevention of conflict (dates to be determined — to be held in Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland).

16. A large number of national institutions have also begun implementation and planning of activities related to the World Conference at the national level. Activities relate to the review of national legislation to determine how it meets international norms regarding discrimination; the development of national action plans and national and local level consultations on racism; the strengthening of networks; the diffusion of information on racial issues and human rights education; and addressing racism on the Internet, slavery and other issues related to the World Conference. Many national institutions used Human Rights Day to launch initiatives related to the World Conference.

17. *Education and training*. Human rights education aims at preventing discriminatory attitudes and behaviour, combating bias and prejudices and appreciating cultural diversity. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is carrying out education, training and public information activities in the context of individual technical cooperation regional or country projects and in connection with the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004). In addition, the Office is developing specific human rights training materials, within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, aimed at specific professional categories, such as human rights monitors; police; judges, prosecutors and lawyers; and prison officials. In the development of these materials, the Office works in close cooperation with relevant experts and professional organizations. These training materials always address the contribution that people in those professions can make in overcoming racial discrimination while performing their professional duties.

18. Some other relevant educational projects undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that are relevant to the follow-up to the World Conference include the following:

(a) The Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project, initiated in 1998 in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to assist organizations and individuals at the local level in carrying out activities aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in local communities. Since 1998, 166 projects have been awarded in more than 30 countries; some of which are aimed at combating racial discrimination through education. A new phase of the ACT project in 26 counties was launched in December 2001;

(b) The Office's database on human rights education (www.unhchr.ch/hredu.nsf) makes available information on human rights education and training materials, programmes and related institutions. The resource collection on human rights education (publicly accessible at the Office in Geneva) includes education and training materials to support anti-discrimination programmes.

19. *Ratification of international instruments and legislative reform*. As part of its technical cooperation programme, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights works in a number of countries on projects aimed at facilitating the ratification of international human rights treaties and consequent harmonization of domestic legislation. All contain anti-discrimination provisions. The Office will also strongly endeavour, by working closely with States, to arrive at the goal of the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by 2005, the target set in the Durban Programme of Action.

20. *Regional institutions and activities*. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights works closely with regional organizations and institutions, which have a major role to play in the follow-up to the Conference. Activities and projects with those organizations will focus on implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The regional commissions and the regional representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights based in those commissions will have a central element in the follow-up by the Office at the regional level and within the United Nations country teams.

Minorities

21. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has published a new Guide for Minorities (the

English version is available at http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/01-minoritiesguide.html. This guide is designed to enable minorities to understand and participate in the United Nations as well as in regional systems of human rights. The year 2002 will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. This occasion will provide a special opportunity to move forward on the implementation of provisions applicable to minorities contained in the Durban Programme of Action.

22. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a regional seminar on people of African descent in the Americas in La Ceiba, Honduras, from 21 to 24 March 2002. It was the first time that the Office had addressed the human rights situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America. The Afro-descendant population of Latin America is estimated at 150 million.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

23. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is working closely with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to follow up on commitments made in the Durban Programme of Action in the context of its broader programme of activities relating to HIV/AIDS. In October 2001, the Office and UNAIDS, together with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, organized a workshop to enhance awareness of and cooperation on HIV/AIDS-related human rights issues in the Asia-Pacific region through the work of national human rights institutions. The workshop focused on the right to equality and non-discrimination in the context of HIV/AIDS, and on the right to health in particular, and how the core functions of national human rights institutions — complaint handling and investigation, education and promotion and legal reform — can address these issues.

Other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

24. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have indicated to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that they intend to familiarize their members and constituencies with the outcome of the Conference, particularly with regard to paragraphs that are of relevance to the scope of their work. Some organizations, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, have stated their intention to mainstream the outcome of Conference into their existing projects. Other organizations have ongoing programmes that respond to requests made in Durban, for example the International Monetary Fund's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

25. The determination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to ensure follow-up to the Conference is reflected in the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and the Programme and Budget for 2002-2003. UNESCO established an intersectoral working group under the chairmanship of the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences to elaborate a UNESCO plan of action to implement the Durban recommendations. UNESCO will seek to explore the potential for its participation in the International Federation of Journalists' International Media Working Group Against Racism and Xenophobia (IMRAX), particularly with regard to raising awareness within the media and promoting the highest standards of journalism in reporting on matters of race, tolerance and multiculturalism.

26. UNESCO will continue producing pedagogical material on human rights education while insisting on the training of educators and decision makers. Several publications will also be prepared in connection with the Slave Route Project. UNESCO will encourage States to revise their educational programmes to include human rights components in schools and in institutions of higher education curricula and to develop extracurricular activities. UNESCO will provide assistance in this regard. The revision of history textbooks to eliminate negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards those who are different is a priority of UNESCO in this field. The Associated Schools Project Network will pursue the intersectoral project entitled "Breaking the silence — teaching about the transatlantic slave trade", developed within the context of the broader Slave Route Project. UNESCO (jointly with Department of Public International Law of the University of Geneva and others) held an expert seminar entitled "Reparations: reconciliation or political combat?" on 22 and 23 March 2002 in Geneva.

27. UNESCO will also undertake specific action within the framework of the International Decade for a

Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). UNESCO has already responded to a request made in Durban with regard to the elaboration of a possible international instrument to promote respect for and preserve cultural diversity and adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity during the thirty-first session of the General Conference, in November 2001.

28. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) discussed the follow-up to Durban in November 2001 and March 2002. As a result, ILO will contribute to the follow-up through a range of activities. These include the following:

(a) Continued research, data collection and technical assistance on issues related to racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the world of labour;

(b) Publications on the effectiveness of anti-discrimination legislation and training with a focus on migrant and ethnic minority workers, as well as a practitioners' handbook on discrimination against migrants and a compendium of anti-discrimination measures are being finalized;

(c) Workers' education on combating discrimination in all its forms, including racism;

(d) Continued support for the Global Compact Initiative on Diversity and Equality, including human resource development;

(e) Management training on issues of discrimination;

(f) Supporting Governments in their development of laws, policies and administrative and enforcement mechanisms addressing racial discrimination in the workplace;

(g) As previously, ILO will continue to draw the attention of the treaty bodies of the United Nations to information on discrimination which emerges from its own supervisory mechanisms.

29. Projects to promote equality and non-discrimination in employment and occupation of specific groups are under way or planned. ILO has launched studies to broaden its knowledge base on racism, examining the extent and consequences of racial and religious discrimination in the labour market and is extending its research on the situation of migrant workers in Europe. ILO will also continue its substantive work on behalf of indigenous and tribal people.

30. ILO has included a special section on racial, ethnic, religious and social origin discrimination in its annual general status report to the ILO Governing Body on ILO action concerning discrimination in employment and occupation. The ILO Global Report on Discrimination, scheduled for 2003 in the context of the follow-up to the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, will benefit from the information and positions generated by the World Conference. The action plan to be adopted after the Global Report has already been planned as an ILO contribution to follow-up on the World Conference.

31. ILO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are planning a joint capacity-building activity entitled: "Mainstreaming trade issues and fundamental principles and rights at work into developing policy".

32. In the follow-up to the World Conference, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of education. In particular, UNICEF will focus on designing strategies to reach those children who are excluded from learning both in and out of school (girls, working children, children of ethnic minorities and children affected by violence and conflict, disabilities and HIV/AIDS), and to allow them to have access to and obtain a basic education of good quality. These strategies include, among others, social mobilization; school-community mechanisms to seek excluded and at-risk children and encourage them to go to school; and flexible, "non-formal" approaches such as multi-grade classes. Special attention will continue to be paid to the provision of bilingual and intercultural education to the children of indigenous groups.

33. The World Health Organization (WHO) will be pursuing follow-up to the Conference in the context of equitable health systems. WHO has several ongoing programmes in that regard, in particular the programme on indigenous health, which is currently taking initial steps towards the production of a Global Strategy on Indigenous Health at the request of the World Health Assembly. Other initiatives on ethnicity and health related to Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples are being undertaken by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the WHO regional office for the

Americas. Activities undertaken and planned in respect of the latter include the following:

(a) Publication and distribution of *Equity in Health from an Ethnic Perspective*, in English, Spanish and Portuguese;

(b) Preparation of a chapter on the health situation of the people of African descent in the Americas for *Health in the Americas*;

(c) Organization of a panel on Afro-descendants and health equity at the Inter-Parliamentarian Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in October 2001;

(d) Preparation of a report on Afro-descendants and health in Brazil;

(e) Planning of a subregional meeting to be held in Quito, Ecuador, with health statistics experts, NGO representatives and delegates from ministries of health to discuss the re-definition of the ethnic variable in order to include not only the indigenous population but also Afro-descendant communities;

(f) Preparation of a project for health development of Afro-descendant communities in selected countries;

(g) Planning of a subregional workshop for Central American countries on gender, ethnicity and health, to be organized with the Women, Health and Development Programme and the United States Census.

34. UNDP, within the limits of its global, regional and country programmes and its available resources, and in collaboration with appropriate partners, will do the following:

(a) Pursue its actions in favour of indigenous communities within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004) and as outlined in its corporate policy note on indigenous peoples adopted on the eve of the Durban World Conference;

(b) Support the strengthening of national mechanisms to promote and protect the human rights of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance who are infected, or presumed to be infected, with pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and also support the taking of concrete measures, including preventive action, appropriate access to medication and treatment, programmes of education, training and mass media dissemination, to eliminate violence, stigmatization, discrimination, unemployment and other negative consequences arising from these pandemics;

(c) Address the sources, causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, especially as they affect Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, indigenous peoples, the Roma/Gypsy/Sinti/Travellers, women and girls, children and persons with disabilities;

(d) Support appropriate measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national, regional and international levels;

(e) Support the adoption and implementation of strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

35. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (formerly the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)), as the focal point in the United Nations for human settlements, is well placed to contribute to the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action, including the provision on promoting residential integration of all members of the society at the planning stage of urban development and renewing neglected areas of public housing to counter social exclusion and marginalization. Several of the Programme's activities relate to the realization of human rights in the context of human settlements development and contribute to the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action. These activities include the following:

(a) The Global Campaign on Urban Governance with its strategic focus on urban poverty reduction and inclusiveness;

(b) The Cities Alliance jointly launched by UNCHS and the World Bank in 1999, an expanding partnership of organizations committed to developing innovative approaches to urban poverty reduction with

a focus on upgrading and integrating slums and informal settlements;

(c) The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, the advocacy instrument designed to promote the security of tenure and residential stability and the housing rights of the urban poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

(d) The United Nations Housing Rights Programme, initiated jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and contribute to the global process of the full and progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing;

(e) Gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives, which advocate the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda with this focus and promotes the equal access of women, particularly indigenous women, to economic and social resources and opportunities;

(f) The Risk and Disaster Management Programme, created to provide local governments, communities and business organizations with practical strategies for mitigating and recovering from conflicts and natural disasters.

36. Field offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have been encouraged to identify practical steps to ensure implementation of the refugee-related paragraphs adopted at the Conference, and to carry out specific activities in this regard.

B. Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

37. Concerning the activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, attention is drawn to the most recent report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/24 and Add.1 and Corr.1).

C. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

38. Regarding the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, attention is drawn to the most recent report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to the General Assembly,[1] which provides information on the International Convention and its application.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/56/18).